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EDITORIAL.

THE discovery of human remains under twenty feet of débris near Lansing, Kan., has revived interest in the antiquity of man in America, and fortunately on more hopeful lines than heretofore, since the mode of occurrence at Lansing is more definitely determinate than in most previous cases of the kind, and the geologic elements of the problem are more declared, though, as it happens, they belong to a much overlooked yet very common type. The recent studies of Brower and Winchell on the quartz chips at Little Falls have brought that case into more definite form.

There remain about the same differences of interpretation as heretofore, but these will pass away as the specific identification of glacio-fluvial, alluvial, and sub-aërial adjustment deposits becomes more familiar and precise, and as their interpretation is at once given greater latitude and made more strictly dependent on discriminative criteria.

In the judgment of the writer, neither of the above cases affords any substantial ground for affirming the presence of man in America during the glacial period; but they do afford a strong presumption that man in this country has witnessed very notable progress in the deepening of the channels of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. In time there may be found means for estimating the rate at which these rivers are lowering their channels, but at present these are wanting, and there is no trustworthy method of estimating in years the time consumed in the deepening which has taken place since the human relics were buried.

T. C. C.